THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene oil are distributed through Fair Price Shops against Ration Cards, Some States also distribute additional non-PDS items of mass consumption such as exercise books, pulses, iodised salt, tea etc. through the FPSs.

(b) to (d) This subject is presently under consideration of the Government.

Shortage of palm oil

4025. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of palm oil in the country; and

(b) if so, the action taken to ensure its adequate supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Selling of expired imported stuffs

†4026. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE :
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS :
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that 90 per cent of the stuffs like chocolates, biscuits, wafers, chips etc. imported from foreign countries are being sold after lapse of their expiry period and due to this the health of the consumers is being adversely affected ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government to check this practice ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) No such complaints regarding sale of imported food stuffs after lapse of their expiry period date has come to the notice of the Department of Consumer Affairs. This subject comes within the purview of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act; 1954 and the Rules framed thereunder, administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Implementation of the said Act and Rules are entrusted with the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/UTs. They have been instructed to lift samples of imported food articles sold in the market and take action including prosecution of offenders in the cases where the samples are found to be adulterated/ misbranded or violating the labeling provisions of the said Act and Rules.

The Department of Commerce has also issued a Notification under section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 to the effect that all edible/food products, domestic sale and manufacture of which are governed by prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 shall also be subject to the condition that at the time of importation, the products are having a valid shelf life of not less than 60 % of their original shelf life. Accordingly all Port/Airport Health Officers and Custom Collectors at Ports/ Airports have been advised to ensure that all the imported food articles comply with all the above provisions before the same are released into the country for human consumption.

Price rise

4027. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of food commodities have not fallen down inspite of the new stock of the crops in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Parliamentary Committee of the Ministry has held the hoarders responsible for the rising prices inspite of the new crops;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and